

Pride = Eye  
Envy = Ear  
Anger = Mouth

SLiTh  
SLiTh

S.N. May 27, 77 AM

Ex 9:14-15

SLOTH DEADLY SIN

Proverbs 12:27

24-28

Shore Park Aug 6, 89 PM  
Brendon Aug 18, 1991  
John Drummond Feb 11, 96 AM  
N.W. Sept 9 2001

"An idle man is the devil's play fellow"  
"The sleepy fox catches no chickens!"

INTRODUCTION:

Ben Franklin "Laziness travels so slowly that Poverty soon overtakes it"

Work is not presented in the Bible as an unpleasant necessity. It is considered as a natural response, of a human being in the world in which he lives. There are things that must be done. Mountains moved, coal mined, disease conquered, houses built, land cultivated, and on and on. As man co-operates with God, as a result of the fall - work ceased to be altogether a joyous enterprise. It is somewhat - become a burden. God declared, cursed is the ground for thy sake. Thorns also, and thistles shall it also bring forth. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread. But it is a painful necessity.

Men can not be lazy, sitting on the point of a sword!!  
The best oil you can use in life is elbow grease  
Benjamin Franklin "Apples don't fall far from the tree"

From the Biblical point of view, work is a part of God's plan. For every one of us - The Ten Commandments, as we call them. Six days shalt thou labor and do all of thy work. Ex. 20:9 It must still be admitted, the fact, that everybody must work is taken for granted.

If Able Bodied - Tough word for shirkers

Work in the New Testament is note worthy in that Paul put it in a blunt fashion. 2 Thess. 3:10. Even when we were with you, this we commanded you. That if any would not work, neither should he eat. Paul seems to have been saying, for you know, that we have been with you quite awhile. And it would do well for you to copy us. We did, <sup>NOT</sup> loaf in your midst, we did not take free meals from anyone, we toiled hard at our trade. We worked night and day, so that we would not be a burden to you. 2 Thess. 3:7-8.

V. 7 we were never loafing - lazy  
V. 11 - we hear some of you are living in laziness, refusing to work & wasting your time in gossiping

8-14

Jesus had something to say about this. I must work the works of him that sent me. While it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. John 9:3.; 5:17

Jesus made it clear in several parables. That men ought to be workers.

Here is a man digging a hole. He struggles, and with the help of others, he puts a telephone poll in place. He strings some wires and fixes them in place. And while he is probably wondering how this dull job can get anywhere or do any good - though his job is no sooner done than a worried mother calls the Doctor to the bedside of a very sick child. Because she can speed her call along the wire, the weary workman has just put up, the Doctor can become useful. We are all dependent upon one another. Although one man's work may be far more spectacular - and it may be far more useful, but who can say that it is more important.

There is a fundamental principle in the Old Testament. As his part is, that goeth down to battle, so shall his part be that terrieth by the stuff. They shall part alike. I Sam. 30:24. David reminded his soldiers that those who cared for the baggage, those who helped with the supplies, those who battle - all should share equally in the results.

Dr. Trueblood once wrote about the chief glory of work. It was one thing that we can actually give our world. We do not produce our talents. Nor do we produce the raw material with which we work. But we do produce our labor.

He says a carpenter who builds a beautiful bench, may be truly creative in

the sense that his work has been done, and it is something of beauty, and something useable. But it did not exist apart from his devoted labor.

Hence, we think of the unpleasant tasks, and the work that we have. And the occupation that we are involved in in this world. To build a better world.

John Bunyan mended pots and pans. William Carey worked on shoes as a cobbler. Other people may sell clothes. Or work in an office. Whatever else, a man's work in life may be, a real part of it - if he is a Christian will be service to Christ.

Now our work differs. And we have different occupations to work on. But the truth that we have here is about the slothful person becomes a deadly sin when an individual will not work.

A college professor was lecturing on sedentary work. He says this tends to lessen your endurance. At that point, a student who was rather smart, interrupted him, - in other words, "the more one sits - the less one can stand."

The professor said exactly - and "if one lies a great deal, one's standing is lost completely."

Old Factory - To Longy -  
We must know that we are in an organized world and that we have to work and to carry on - maybe sometimes difficult tasks that are out here before us.

*a Walter Residual - Because it rushed to my  
Emergency room & climbed on the operating table in great pain -  
He saw an intern walk by - Or, you have to help me - Walter phoned  
-4- "Sorry" The intern said "This isn't my  
Table."*

But I want us to undertake to look at some of the traits that we find in slothfulness - in (sloth). The writer of Proverbs will help us to understand some of these.

*Heb. 16:12 I do NOT want you to become lazy*

William Stiger tells what happened when Henry Ford took over the Lincoln Automobile Plant in Detroit. He felt that the plant was being run inefficient by the people in charge. There were several hundred girls in a department on the top floor. So Mr. Ford had a large tree cut down and carried it to see, how long it would remain there, before someone with responsibility would see it and do something about it.

The huge tree remained in the hallway for several weeks. Hundreds of people, including several foreman, had to walk around it. Or remove it. They all assumed it was somebody else's business. Not a one of them took the responsibility of reporting it. They all passed the buck, and said to themselves, oh well - it looks crazy, but who am I to report it. It isn't my business.

After a few weeks, Mr. Ford walked in one day, and discharged the whole lot of them and put his son, Edsel in charge of the plant. It was just an eccentric manufacturer's way of saying - I am going to test you out, and see if anybody is on the job doing his work. There are all sorts of pitfalls, and they are like trees when it comes to the matter of this sin that we are talking about this morning. There is first of all, slavery, squander, striker, sorrow, and a solution.

*1. initial*

I. SLAVERY

Proverbs 12:24 says - "the slothful man will end as a slave. The diligent man will get the upper hand. "

It is like Jerome once said, "I like work - it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours." Now, the writer of Proverbs says and teaches us that the sin of slothfulness is something that is going to lead us to slavery. As one scholar defined it - it breaks down the interesting things that are worthy of man's endeavor. To these things, there has to develop indifference. As the initial step.

*(Living Room) - 2 yrs Mrs Paper, 6 mos Laundry sitting around*

What happens to man is, that he becomes paralyzed to the higher interests in every day life. It is like a slave - as Proverbs 19:15, says of this man. That a laziness ends in a deep sleep. And an idle man will be hungry. Though he puts himself to sleep. Proverbs 22:13 the sluggard says there is a lion outside. And I will be murdered in the street. "

If a lazy man gets to the place where he makes all kinds of excuses, and he says, there is a lion outside. I can't go out and go to work. While I'll be destroyed if I should attempt to go out.

Proverbs 26:13-15 he re-emphasizes this fact. "The sluggard says some beast is roaring in the road. There is a lion outside. The door turns on its hinges, and the lazy man upon his back, the lazy man drops his hands. Deep in the dish. It tires him even to lift it to his lips. "The lazy man imagines he is wiser. Than a dozen men who argue ably.

What a picture of a man becoming a slave. He turns upon his bed, like a door on a hinge, and does not accomplish anything. He is so simple, that he will not eat even as he should. He cannot lift his hand to his mouth. So here is something of slavery.

→ What he is saying is - here is a man who begins the first <sup>chapter</sup> volume of some book and before he is half way through - he gets tired. And he never finishes.

Or, he joins some lecture force - and he is going to really prove himself, but after he has heard half of one lecture - he gets tired and he gives up.

✓ Here is an individual who sets out to keep (diary). And they are going to consider this sort of thing. And just a little while, that record is forgotten.

✓ Here is a youth who has enjoyed all of the advantages, and has the opportunity of a modern education. Who has the ability, the aptitude, and the skill to do. But, he gets on a certain path of life and he gives up on it. It is a little bit too demanding for him. But his hands are expectantly relaxed.

✓ Here is someone else who goes into industry as an (apprentice). Well, despite the superior advantages that he knows about, he works at it, and then he loses his eagerness after a few days. He can't see what is going to happen 40 years from now.

It will take him maybe three years to learn what he is going to use over his lifetime. But he is not willing to give up these couple of years to do this and he becomes what we call a slave to that.

The Bible suggests that sin of slothfulness is just as much alive today, as it was in the ancient world. As I have looked at the Bible for this message, I have discovered that we have still this sin. (Webster's) Dictionary defines (sloth) as a declination to action or labor. It is a sluggishness, a laziness. It is an idleness.

*Rejoice - had heard dog - 30 Jan - Sleep near ~~steps~~ Back Door -  
Thomas Bennett out - not get up get - unless tanded by hi nose!*

Of course, we know that this is true in the spiritual sense. There is a lot of apathy, inactivity in what we should practice. The Bible has a great deal to say about this damning sin of slothfulness. In fact, the book of Proverbs, is full of this. As I have just indicated. It is spoken of as a deep sleep. A man who suffers hunger and he is too much bound by it that he will not even feed himself. And that his hands refuse to labor - because he says, there is some lion outside in the street that may harm me.

Now the Bible says that this is a negative kind of life. And it is one that is unworthy of following Jesus Christ. It is a sin against yourself. Slothfulness is a destroyer of every opportunity, and murders souls.

We might describe it as a piece of (driftwood) on the ocean. That goes with the current and with the tide. It is effortless, and it is heedless, and apparently helpless. It becomes a slave of all the currents. Sometimes it is an easy way, maybe a popular way, or a broad way, it is the way of the crowd. It takes no effort.

And no strength - and no manhood. To drift on down stream like a piece of driftwood in slothfulness which goes on ultimately til destruction.

Many a man or person has lost his life because of a bad driver. He goes to sleep. Many people are fighting losing battles spiritually. Not because they are really bad - but because they are spiritually slothful. They are drowsie. Eph. 5:14 says, awake, thou that sleepest. And arise from the dead, Christ will give Thee light. Many people have lost their health and their life because they abuse their body with sin.

Now, slothfulness, really reaps an annual harvest of souls on the highways and other places. Because of slavery to this sin - and it becomes a sin of omission, by individuals.

*Showing*  
~~II. SQUANDER~~

*Prov 18: 9 Waster*

This too, is another trait of this sin. In the (18th chapter) and the 9th verse - we read about a man slack in his work, is as bad as a waster. So he is described as a man who omits things. And he becomes a squander of that which is good.

*Prov.*  
Chapter (12:27) - The lazy man will not hunt game for himself. A diligent man is a rare treasure he says. But the (King James) version of that, I like better than Moffett. For he says that the slothful man roasts not - that which he took in hunting. Here is a man who goes hunting. And he is so lazy, and so



Monkeys Barring (too) Talent Wast  
Store -

-9-

slothful, that he will not prepare the game that he has taken. He is just either the author means - he is either too lazy to go on the hunt, or if he does go - he is too lazy then to prepare it and cook it for his meal. Hence, he becomes a (squander) a waster.

Ecc. 10:18 - Puts it in these words. Sloth makes the rafters sink. When hands are slack - the roof will leak. Because of a man's slothfulness - it pays to repair his roof. The roof ultimately leaks - and then caves in and the building falls in. So it squanders the whole building. So here is a squander.

Jesus told a parable once - not only of the reward of the faithful servant - but of his judgement of the slothful servant. The judgement for doing nothing was as great as those who had committed murder and adultery. In Matt. 25:26-30 there is the record of his sentence. "Thou wicked and slothful servant, Take thou the talent from him, and cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The unprofitable servant had done nothing outwardly wrong, he simply had been slothful in carrying out his responsibility. His sin was the sin that we are speaking of.

*Kingdom like Man - 5 Talent 2; 1 - did find way*  
The Hen is the ~~only~~ <sup>only</sup> one who can lay around and still be a producer  
5 love 5 today

In Matt. 25:12 there is also judgement given to the ten virgins. They were not guilty of cheating, lying, or stealing. They simply neglected to provide for themselves oil. They were lazy - and they were unfaithful, and "the door slammed" shut. And the voice of God echoed judgement. I knew ye not. In every area of life, the slothful person is the loser. The lazy student who spends his time at the campus drugstore or in the dorm will never hope to make an honor roll. A diploma is usually given for faithful service. It is usually the person who is willing to work who finally gets through. This is so on the farm, in the business,

They will have nothing to do. They get no thrill out of the Master's service. They are not rejoicing to the message of God. They become familiar with some things - and yet they let the truth go unheeded.

Thomas Aquinas said of the man guilty of this sin, he is like the passer-by - the indifferent man. He says, he always throws down his tools for a discussion with anybody passing by. But he says a busy man is always pressing on - he is always working. *Want to percolate? Then circulate*

Quite often, we hear somebody ask the question - what did so and so die of? And somebody will reply, doing nothing! That is enough to kill any man, you know.

*The word EASY appears only once in Nit, & then it is connected with the job!*

I read the story of Pat who had been digging a well on a little farm. One day while he was eating lunch - the well caved in. Which meant many many extra hours of work. He looked around to see if anybody was looking on - and then he put his coat and his cap on the edge of the well, and then he hid in the nearby woods. Assuming that he was at the bottom of the well, a score of neighbors soon were frantically engaged in throwing out the dirt. When the job was done, Pat emerged from the woods and thanked his neighbors for their volunteer services. Perhaps Pat had heard the saying - it is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men.

Every man ought to be a worker - not a striker.

Slavery squander

III. IV. SORROW

In Prov. 24:30-34 I passed by the field of the slothful, by the vineyard of the lazy, and there it lay - all over grown with thistles. The surface covered with nettles. And the stone wall broken down. I thought upon it as I looked - I learned a lesson from the sight.

Poverty will pounce on you and want will over-power you. Here is where the sorrow part comes in. In Prov. 20:4 (in the cold season, a lazy man will not plow. So he expects a crop in vain at harvest.) Chapter 15 - Verse 19, the slothful man finds life beset with thorns.

Woman from Hazard Kentucky - Went see Governor get her husband out of Penitentiary - What's he in for? Governor wanted to know? "For stealing a ham" That doesn't sound too bad. Is he a good worker? No I wouldn't say, He is LAZY! Is he good to you & children? No it's not, Mean to us, won't trade. Why would we want a man like that out of prison? Well Governor, we're out of ham.

So here is a man who will come to sorrow. He will have heartbreak along the way because of sloth. There are thousands of people who are slothful about church-going. They like to sleep late on Sunday morning. Or go out for a game of golf. Or sit at home and read the newspaper. And rationally, well, I can hear a sermon on radio. Or I can watch a religious program on television - and they think by doing this, they have discharged their religious responsibility.

John - Mering

There are others who are slothful about their prayer life. Paul said, we ought to pray without ceasing. He meant, that we were to be in the attitude of prayer at all times. Because we are lazy and slothful, our prayer life is neglected. The spiritual resources dry up.

Most of us, would rather have sleep - than to spend some time in prayer with God. We often let things interfere with our appointments with God. If you had an appointment with the President of the United States I dare say you

*Sluggard*

To squandering, to become a striker, and to a great deal of sorrow. Now what is the solution to it.

*6:6-11*  
In Prov. 6:6-8 he says this - go to the ant, you sluggard. Learn her ways. Learn sense, for she has no leader. No foreman or chief. Yet in the summer she provides her food. And gathers during harvest days. You sluggard, how long will you sleep. When will you arise.

No Guide - *works food summer - stores harvest winter*

Here is the ant which gives us the solution. The slothful person needs to take note, with no one to drive it or be the chief over it. In the summer to provide food for the winter.

There is a solution to it. Rom. 12:11. (Be ye not slothful in business but fervent in spirit serving the Lord.) There are many ways that you can serve the Lord and get the solution here that you need.

*Story of St. Maddy who was on board ship - caught fire - crew & passengers stood in line passing buckets of water - Pious man - urged Maddy go to other end of Board & pray - God sense & faith replied Not so sir, we will stand right here in line & pray as we pass the buckets of water -*

The sin of criminal, spiritual neglect will certainly help to populate Hell.

The worst thing that slothfulness does, robs a man of his spiritual purpose, and his power in Christian decision.

*The Church is never a resting camp it is a working force -*

He knows the way he should go. But slothfulness has made his will soft and irresponsible. This is what James 4:17 to him that knoweth to do good and doth it not, to him it is sin. In the crowd of people who gathered around the cross of Jesus - there were those who committed this sin. Even though Christ

Solution to Stott

Motorist Noted Woman standing beside car - flat tire. He stopped!  
Removed flat changed tire Thank you said Woman you will be blessed  
for changing tire - Don't leave Thank me, it's no job for a lady. After tire change  
motorist, please put the Jack Down Early My Husband's Taking Rep in Back Seat!  
Angela moyan Work! Thank God for the Night of it  
splendor

Henry Van Dyke "Let me do my work from day to day,  
in field or forest, at desk or loom  
In the Rearing market place, or tranquil Room.

This is my work; my Blessing, not my doom,  
of all who live, I am the one by whom  
This work can best be done in the right way  
Because I know for me my work is best.

Even strand per day there was something to make you sleep - They Called it Work!

B. Confession and repentance always lead to new life.

✓ Max Lucado tells the story of a man who had been a closet slob most of his life. He just couldn't comprehend the logic of neatness. Why make up a bed if you're going to sleep in it again tonight? Why put the lid on the toothpaste tube if you're going to take it off again in the morning? He admitted to being compulsive about being messy.

Then he got married. His wife was patient. She said she didn't mind his habits . . . if he didn't mind sleeping on the couch. Since he did mind, he began to change. He said he enrolled in a 12-step program for slobbers. A physical therapist helped him rediscover the muscles used for hanging up shirts and placing toilet paper on the holder. His nose was reintroduced to the smell of Pine Sol. By the time his in-laws arrived for a visit, he was a new man.

But then came that moment of truth. His wife went out of town for a week. At first he reverted to the old man. He figured he could be a slob for six days and clean up on the seventh. But something strange happened. He could no longer relax with dirty dishes in the sink or towels flung around the bathroom or clothes on the floor or sheets piled up like a mountain on the bed.

What happened? Simple. He had been exposed to a higher standard of living. (1)

That's what confession and repentance do for us. That's what Jesus does for us.

## CONCLUSION:

What we need to see is that the call to repentance is Good News. Without it there can be no forgiveness. But with repentance, not only is there forgiveness but there's new life as well.

John's call to repentance isn't a call to feel guilty. NO! Guilt is meant to be redeemed. John's call is a call to hear the Good News through the one who is to come. John's thunder in the desert call is a call to bulldoze down all those things that could and would and do get in the way of our coming to Christ. John's call is to build a highway so that we can come straight through as fast as we can to the manger, the place where new life offers new life.

was dying. Matt. 27:36 says, sitting down they watched him there. That was real indifference. You would think that is unthinkable. But just before Jesus died, he looked at all the sinners around about him. Thieves, the murderers, the gamblers, hypocrites, the immoral, the gluttons, and the slothful. And he said, father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Luke 23:34. In that moment, he took away the sins of those people who believed - by his own redemption. Eternal life is in reach of everyone. The Saviour's near to save you. What is there to hinder you from becoming his follower today.

Spiritual sloth is an old old story, - but it brings death. It is tragic in what it does to a man. It is like the old pastor who went to visit. And this man had been very slothful about his religious life. He walked over to the fireplace and removed a live coal. And placed it to one side and silently stood and watched it until that glow had turned to a dull, black mass. Where upon the man he was visiting said, I know, you need not say anymore! Next Sunday will find me in God's house!

Time is passing, and of course, you are making a lot of tragic bargains.